College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University | New York, N.Y. 10032

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY

630 West 168th Street

October 25, 1990

Dr. Harmon C. McAllister
Research Director
Council for Tobacco Rsearch-U
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Dr. McAllister:

I am organizing a conference for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology on the topic "Gastrointestinal Tract IV: Development and Repair-Cellular and Molecular Aspects". The Conference is to be held at Copper Mountain, Colorado from August 4-9, 1991. The FASEB Conferences, like the Gordon Conferences, bring a modest number of researchers together for intense scientific discussion over a five-day period. Each conference focuses on nine carefully selected topics in the most promising and exciting areas in that research field.

The conference on the Gastrointestinal Tract IV: Development and Repair-Cellular and Molecular Aspects will deal with our current level of knowledge of cellular and molecular biology. Topics to be discussed include (1) stem cells and development (renewal of epithelium); (2) cell and region-specific regulation of intestinal epithelial gene expression; (3) models of epithelial differentiation; (4) development and maintenance of polarized epithelial cell function; (5) endocytosis and transcytosis in mucosal immunity; (6) extracellular modulation of gastrointestinal cell differentiation; (7) cell migration and repair of the epithelium; (8) the neural crest and gastrointestinal development; (9) intestinal inflammation/anaphylaxis and neural function. Poster sessions will allow presentation of additional related topics in cellular and molecular biology of the bowel as well as in gastrointestinal pharmacology. About 40 participants from North America and Europe have accepted invitations depending upon financial support in many cases. I have enclosed a tentative list of the sessions in order to give you a more precise appreciation for the high quality interdisciplinary meeting which this will be. Recent progress in cellular and molecular biological research has been explosive and this meeting should be particularly timely to help bring focus to the significance of current developments.

I am trying to raise funds for partial support of participants' travel meeting expenses. Travel may cost up to $700 for East Coast participants, for example. The room, board and registration costs for the meeting are a modest $370. Thus, I am writing to you to inquire about a possible financial contribution of about $5,000. We wish to support senior invited speakers including a few key individuals from outside the cellular and molecular biology area who will share their insights with us. We also wish to support at least 20 junior investigators (at $500 a piece) who might otherwise not be able to attend. If you cannot contribute as much as $5,000, we would be highly appreciative of any lesser amount of support that you would be able to provide.

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These promising young investigators represent the new blood of this field (and other fields) who will be making the significant contributions in the coming decades. Attendance is limited to 150. The conference will be well advertised by FASEB and our preliminary response from a letter announcing the meeting indicates that a large number of people will apply. I think it is likely that the conference will be of interest to your own gastrointestinal scientists. We would be happy to have people from your company join us at the meeting. In addition, if you would like to take advantage of the congregation of GI-related talent that the meeting will provide, we would be happy to consider suggestions for workshops or other additions to the meeting that you would consider beneficial. Your company will, of course, be acknowledged as a supporter of the conference.

If you would like more details about the meeting, please feel free to contact me at 212-305-3447. The Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Marian Neutra from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School may also be contacted at 617-735-6229.

Sincerely yours,

Michael D. Gershon

Michael D. Gershon, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

Enclosure

P.S. Checks should be annotated "**GI Tract**" and made payable to:

FASEB
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20014

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